GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:846
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Contamination of Water
Kaswan Shri Rahul

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the locations in the country where groundwater is excessively contaminated and health of people is being affected as a result thereof;
(b) whether the Government has formulated any Action Plan to deal with the said situation; and
(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated to the States including Rajasthan for the said purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) carries out groundwater quality assessment and monitoring across the country. Based on such assessment, locations in excess of permissible limits, as prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards, have been identified which are given in the annexure.

(b) The measures taken to address the issue of groundwater contamination inter alia include sharing of ground water quality analysis results by the CGWB with concerned State agencies for awareness and necessary action and tapping by CGWB of contamination free aquifers in the contamination affected areas through exploratory drilling and handing over to State Governments for utilization. National Aquifer Mapping Programme has been implemented during XIIth Plan which inter alia includes construction of arsenic safe deeper aquifer tubewells in Arsenic affected States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Central and State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/ PCCs) monitor and take steps to restore the water quality across the country through administration of 'Consent to Establish' and 'Consent to Operate' to industrial units before commencing industrial operations.

(c) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDWS) has released ?800 Crore in March, 2016 to provide community water purification plants in arsenic and fluoride affected habitations for drinking and cooking purposes. Out of this, Rajasthan was provided with ?331.29 Crore. Funds to the tune of ?100 Crore each was also provided for tackling arsenic and fluoride problems in West Bengal and Rajasthan respectively for the last mile connectivity in commissioning surface water based piped water supply schemes. Besides, the MoDWS has formulated a National Water Quality Sub-Mission for focus funding to schemes meant for mitigating arsenic and fluoride contamination on cost sharing basis between Centre and State in order to provide safe drinking water to arsenic and fluoride affected habitations from sustainable water sources. During 2016-17, an amount of ?746.23 Crore has been released to States as Central share under National Water Quality Sub-Mission, out of which an amount of ?449.61 Crore was released to Rajasthan.

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